



April 10th. 1908 - Momence Paper

THE TOWNSHIP ELECTION

Momence Township is Dry; Ganeer Goes Wet

After the hardest campaign in the history of the town in which 562 votes were cast, Momence went dry by a majority of 38 votes. Nearly 400 votes were cast on Ganeer, and that township went wet by 55 votes.

For several weeks both sides have to keep up a warm contest, almost every night there was a speaking or a meeting of some kind. Some of the best orators in the country have been here and the question was thoroughly discussed. Just before the battle of the ballots, a parade of school children was given. About 200 of the little folks were in line, carrying banners, singing songs, and giving their battle cry, such as "The Saloons Must Go." They were led by the ladies of the different churches.

All day long, the voters came in and the ballots silently dropped into the boxes, told the story.

In the afternoon it began to rain, and the anti-local option forces took this as a good sign, but the men stood out in the rain to the finish. Every nook and corner was searched for voters. There were many witty sentences coined, but no blows were struck.

As a result of the election, all the saloons in Momence Township must close. It is said they will move over to Ganeer Township as fast as buildings can be secured. However, the city will vote on option April 21st and it is believed the whole city will go dry. Ganeer has boasted for years that she has no saloons and now it's up to the people to decide. If the city votes wet the question will likely be submitted at the next general election in Ganeer.

More Momence Newspapers articles on the Temperance Movement

1876 – March 9th. - Momence Paper

THAT ANONYMOUS LETTER

We received an anonymous communication last week purporting to come from a woman who claimed that her husband and children were being ruined by the dram shops, which they were frequenting too much. If the writer be a woman, and this is her case, she has a right to complain. The writer threatens that unless the saloons in this place dry up or are made to obey the law, she will smash their windows or set them on fire, especially threatening to burn our Adam Berg. She says that a week ago Saturday night, she raised her club to smash Miller's, Graham & Nichols windows, but thought better of that for that time, but she did break the windows at Berg's saloon. (Eight lights of glass were broken for Berg that night.) Threats are also made against the drug stores, the town board, and especially against the "White Rabbit" and the proprietor of the building where the "White Rabbit" holds forth unless things dry up there. The businessmen of the place are cautioned, too, not to throw their influence in favor of the saloons.

The question of license or no license, like the question of making threats, is a very serious and ugly question. Whether prohibition or anti-prohibition as to selling intoxicating drinks is the better way is a question that remains entirely unsolved in the minds of a large number of the most ardent and thorough-going temperance men in the nation. They don't know what to say about it, and it is very much a mixed question with them whether the temperance cause would be benefitted or injured by withholding license. But with that is an ugly and mixed question, there is one question that is neither ugly nor mixed. We have a good liquor law in this state, and it is not a hard matter to enforce the law if anyone will take the trouble to do it, and it is not so very much trouble either. If that law should be enforced and saloon keepers be made to live up squarely to its provisions, and the rate of license be made reasonably high, the power of saloons to do harm would be very much abated. The task of compelling saloon keepers to obey the law is a work which the writer of that article, whether that writer be a woman, or a man who disguised his hand-and we guess it was a man-can legitimately engage in, and so long as that effort is being made in a proper and legitimate way it will receive the sympathy of all good citizens, not only of Momence, but elsewhere.



The photo is of Activist Carry Nation, here with her bible and hatchet, was a member of the temperance movement. She used a hatchet to smash booze bottles before prohibition. She had a bad history with alcohol, and she went to extremes to try and get it banned.



March 13th. 1908 - Momence Paper

THE MEN'S MEETING

Almost 400 men assembled at the opera house Wednesday night to hear the most wonderful lecture by the ablest woman that ever addressed a Momence audience. And never before did the liquor traffic get such a seething arrangement-she literally skinned the business but expressed sympathy for the men.

After a flag drill, a song by the children, and a solo by Mr. Ernest Hardy, Mrs. Lake was introduced by Mrs. Vane.

She said she liked the men and only wanted them to do right. What power is given to man for good or evil on the ballot? And God holds men responsible for their example of carelessness as well as their ballot. There is no authority in God's law for the liquor license. We assail the liquor traffic because it is an unnatural thing. A tippling man or woman is not fit to be a parent. God made man to be the head of the house as Christ is the head of the Church. A man who drinks is not capable of filling that position as he should.

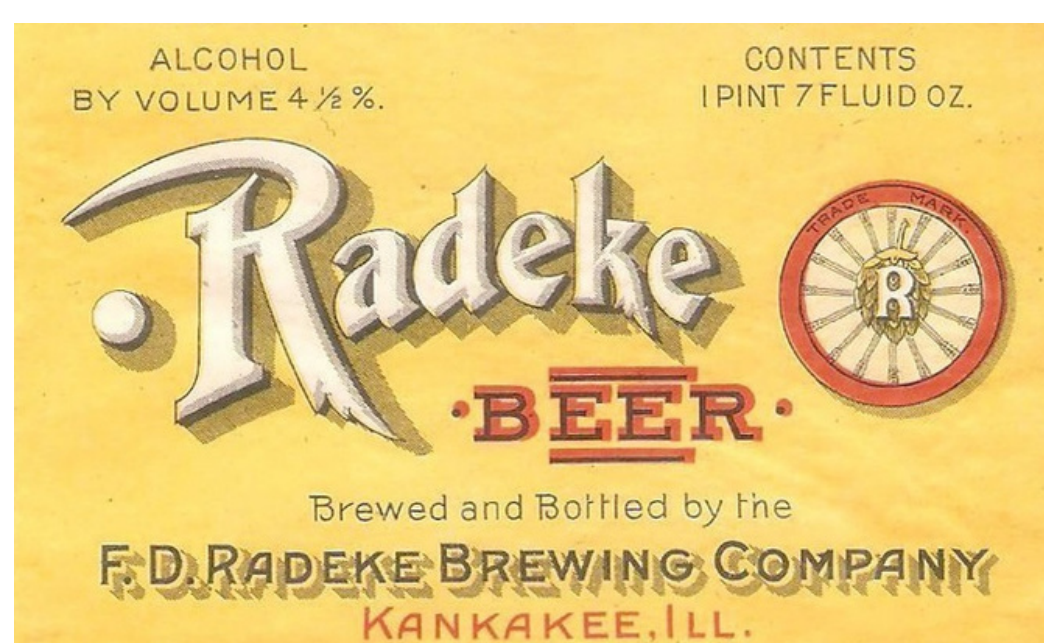
Men vote for the license because of greed. There are not ten men in this city who would vote for it without the license fee. Brewers and distillers make stuff that only God and the chemist know what it is made of, and then for \$4200, the men of Momence grant license to permit its sale. This shows that with the aid of the young men, the temperance forces will win.

Though defeated once, Ben-hadad said, "Ahab's god is the god of the hills, let us fight in the valley," but the god of the hills won again.

Formerly the liquor men would quote scripture, but the temperance people captured the Bible hill. Also, the scientitle temperance hill. It has been proven that alcohol has no curative powers nor food value. A great German doctor discovered that the mortality among brewers is greater than among other workers. We are fighting for the economic hill. Now 2,000,000 jobs are closed to drinking men. Everywhere the sign is up. "None but sober men need apply." We captured the Judicial hill in Judge Artman's decision and also the hill of "Newspaperdom." Now every respectable newspaper is publishing temperance matter.

Miss Brehm told of the campaigns in which she has a part.

The people are rallying to our cause all over the country, and the temperance forces are winning.





March 13th. 1908 - Momenca Paper

MRS. LAKE'S BIG MEETING

The series of meetings given by Mrs. Lenora Lake, the great Catholic orator of St. Louis, began Tuesday night at the Baptist Church. After some very appropriate music, a company of handsome boys and girls had a pretty drill and a song which was applauded by the vast audience.

Mrs. Lake was accompanied to the platform by Mrs. A.M. Wheeler of Grant Park and introduced by Mrs. T.H. Vane as “the women of the hour.”

Mrs. Lake discussed the temperance question, meeting, in turn, the arguments of the saloon people. She said there are two sides to the question, and the people are interested from coast to coast. On the saloon side is the love of money, greed, avarice, and political power; on the other is the love of God, the love of country, the love of home, honesty, and everything to make the world better, and to make it harder to do wrong.

As it exists in the licensed saloon, the liquor traffic has no place in a civilized community. It seeks to defeat all men it cannot control. It always forms the third house in legislative bodies. It is the cause of many deaths, a breeder of crime and insanity, and a prostitute’s womanhood.

The saloon has no constitutional right but exists by special privilege. It is not essential but is a leech on the body politic. The grocer, the butcher, the shoe man, the coalman, and the clothier all give something for the money. The saloon gives you a bad headache the next morning. When a man takes the first drink, he feels the exhilaration. If he keeps on, he gets to be an animal. IF he buys beef steak, shoes, or clothing, he has something the next morning; if he buys booze, he feels like a fool, and his money is gone.

She discussed the revenue side. All that the saloon gives to the city in one lump, it collects from the individual citizens of the city and vicinity, in nickels, dimes, quarters, besides the expenses and a large profit. No business, but the drunkard-making business will be hurt by the town going dry. The banks and all other businesses will improve.

What one community or town can do, another can. Cambridge, Mass., with a population of over 95,000, has been dry for twenty-three years. Brocton, Mass., with the great Douglas Shoe factories, is dry, and the workers are Polish, Swedes, Germans as well as Americans. They are also building good homes. Haverhill, Mass., is a wet town, but Brocton has 10,000 more people and \$2,000,000 the most in savings banks.

In Ohio, the saloon license money is divided with the state and county, but in Illinois, the farmers must pay the increased taxes to pay criminal court expenses while the city gets all the revenue.

She criticized the licensing literature for having no authority, date, or parentage, legitimate or illegitimate.

The worst anarchist is the officer that takes the oath and then refuses to enforce the law.

The temperance people are not interfering with personal rights but acting in self-defense.

Money is the only talk the saloon people make. For money, Judas betrayed Christ. In this age, churches do not have to depend upon the liquor traffic, and a church that has to depend upon the saloon to live ought to die.

As to the corn question, less than 3 percent of the corn is used for liquor. She feels the farmers should raise more hogs, so the people could have meat and do away with the mash-fed hogs at the distilleries.



Miss Brehm

March 20th. 1908 - Momence Paper

MISS BREHM'S LECTURES

On Sunday morning, the M.E. Church was crowded to the limit to hear Miss Brehm, and not a soul went away disappointed.

Miss Brehm spoke from the 37th. verse of the 8th chapter of Romans. "Nay, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." These were the words of Paul. The argument was that through Christ, we could conquer the world. In all the past teachings of Christ tower over the wrecks of time. Christ's ideas swept away the ideals of the Romans when he said, "Blessed is the Peacemaker." In many things, we seem to be defeated, but at last, we are more than conquerors.

All great moral questions in the past have been decided precisely according to the ideas of the most extreme advocates. God is over all, and he delights in giving great moral victories to the minority.

In the battle between right and wrong, love is the great factor. The more one loves humanity; the more one hates evil. Faith and love inspired Paul to write these words.

The battle against the liquor traffic is on all over the world over. In Stockholm, Sweden, eighteen different nations were represented last July, and banners in fourteen different languages declared against the drink evil.

In the United States, the battle has been successful in many states. Knoxville, Tenn., a city of 60,000 people, led in the great fight when women prayed, and bells were tolled all day while the loyal men voted the saloon out. Then the bells rang in rejoicing.

She said statesmen and politicians are awakening to the importance of the issue, and employers of labor are asking for legislation to stop the sale of liquor to men. All good positions are barred to the men who drink. A speaker recently said of the liquor business. "I hate it for the tears of women and children it has caused to go hungry; for the hearts, it has broken; for the crimes, it has led to being committed; for the divorces, it has procured; for the mothers' sakes, whose sons it has ruined; for its defeat of the will of the people; for the heartaches of girlhood and young manhood."

Knowing the American's love for the dollar, the liquor dealers were appealing to him through this means. It seems almost useless to discuss the economic side to a right-thinking person, but it must also be done. Statistics show that the liquor business uses one bushel of corn from each farmer, that's all.

She visited the big distillery at Peoria and noted that none of them boasted "personal liberty." A government inspector deprives them of all that boasted "freedom" and makes them pay revenue on four gallons of whiskey on each bushel of corn taken in the distil.

Also, she learned that before corn could be made into whiskery, the life germ was taken out of it, so whiskey is a product of the "dead."

She said every child had a right to be born, yet 2000 out of 8000 epileptic children in a state institution, according to a learned physician, could lay the fault to their parents' use of alcoholic beverages.

She said. "Whatsoever is physiologically wrong or hurts this temple, our body, cannot be morally right, and whatever is morally wrong cannot be politically right."

On a trip to Europe, she learned that whatever has endured through the ages in art, literature, or music has been inspired by Christ. America has just begun to develop in art and literature. Here we have free press, free speech, and free schools, and our work should be to give the world a standard of correct citizenship.



"WET" OR "DRY"

"VOTE WET
FOR MY
SAKE!"



"VOTE DRY
FOR
MINE!"



**Shall the Mothers and Children
be Sacrificed to the Financial
Greed of the Liquor Traffic?**

IT IS UP TO YOU, VOTER, TO DECIDE

VOTE  DRY

April 17th. 1908 - Momence Paper

NEXT TUESDAY'S BATTLE

Next Tuesday ends the temperance fight for this year, and we hope for a number of years. We trust that the voters will settle the question and settle it right. Undoubtedly, our city can run, if economically managed and expensive lawsuits avoided, without the saloon taxes, most of which are paid by men who cannot afford to do so.

Our taxes are now almost as high as the law will permit, and taxpayers need have no fears on that score. The city waterworks are self-supporting, and the police force is no great burden. The street work can be systematized, and sidewalk and sewer contracts awarded to home men, who will give us good work.

Our city receives as much income from regular sources as other towns of this size, which are conducted without saloon revenue. Are we not able to do what they can? Are our aldermen not as good businessmen as those of the 1500 cities and towns that went dry last Tuesday? We find in looking downstate that the best towns are dry towns. They have the best improvements and lowest public indebtedness, with a tax rate no higher than ours. The saloon men say this cannot be done. Give the temperance people a chance! Give them power and a two-year trial to prove their theories.

This campaign has not been personal. Many incidents have happened in the saloons and on the streets that the temperance people might have used. The saloon keeper is too much abused. Men vote him into business, then vote him out of their lodge. That is not right. If a saloon keeper quits the business, he should have a square deal.

We find that few people want to live near a saloon. A stray bullet may hit any member of your family. A big brewer wished to build a \$25,000 residence and be located in one of the beautiful suburban cities, which is dry. Why did he not locate on a lot adjoining a saloon? If brewers and saloon advocates do not want to live near a saloon, certainly, temperance people do not. Residence property near a saloon is harder to sell, and in many cases, it brings less. Momence voted out the seven saloons, shall they establish their business in Ganeer? Do you want a saloon-hotel on that vacant lot near your home? You may answer at the polls next Tuesday, April 21st.

TEMPERANCE

J. D. RADEKE BROS. CO.



Royal Pale

KANKAKEE, ILL'S



Sources and Photo credit: Graham Historic House/ Nancy Porter, Momence Progress Reporter, Dave Plein Collection, Wikipedia. other.